

REMARKS

Claims 1-99 are currently pending in this application. The non-final Office Action mailed March 9, 2004 rejected claims 1-99. Claims 1, 11, 17, 36, 52, 53, 61, 63, 67, 73, 78, 86, and 97 were amended in response to the objection. Claims 77 and 81 have been canceled. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully submitted that each of the present claims find basis and support in the application as filed. For the reasons discussed in detail below, Applicants submit that the pending claims are patentable over the art of record and respectfully request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Claim Objections

Claims 47 and 52 are objected to in the Office Action as they recite the same limitations and are dependent from the same parent claim. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for this observation and amends claim 52 to correct a typographical error, and for no other reason.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 11, 63, 77, and 80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter for which the applicants regards as the invention. In response, claims 11 and 63 have been amended, and claims 77 and 81 have been canceled. No new matter has been added with this amendment.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-14, 16-21, 23-25, 29-30, 36, 39-40, 42, 48-50, 53-57, 61-63, 65-70, 73-81, 84-89, and 94-97 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,420,866 to Wasilewski (herein as "Wasilewski"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art reference, does not anticipate nor makes obvious the claimed invention as presently amended. For example, amended claim 1 recites


53, 61, 67, 73, 78, 86, and 97, respectively; therefore, they are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above for those independent claims and should also be allowed to issue.

CONCLUSION

By the foregoing explanations, Applicants believe that this response has responded fully to all of the concerns expressed in the Office Action, and believe that it has placed each of the pending claims in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. Should any further aspects of the application remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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